

*The New Hampshire Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (NH PRAMS) collects data on a variety of topics related to maternal health. This report is based on 2018 NH PRAMS data which is weighted to represent the experiences of all NH women who had a live birth in 2018.*



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# Oral Health Care During Pregnancy in New Hampshire

New Hampshire  
Pregnancy Risk Assessment  
Monitoring System  
2018 Data Summary



A healthy mother,  
a healthy start for baby



## Why is Oral Health During Pregnancy So Important?

Oral health care is an important part of prenatal care and is essential to a woman's overall health. Physiological changes during pregnancy cause women to be more prone to gum disease and cavities, making this a critical time for good oral care to optimize a woman's oral health throughout her lifespan.

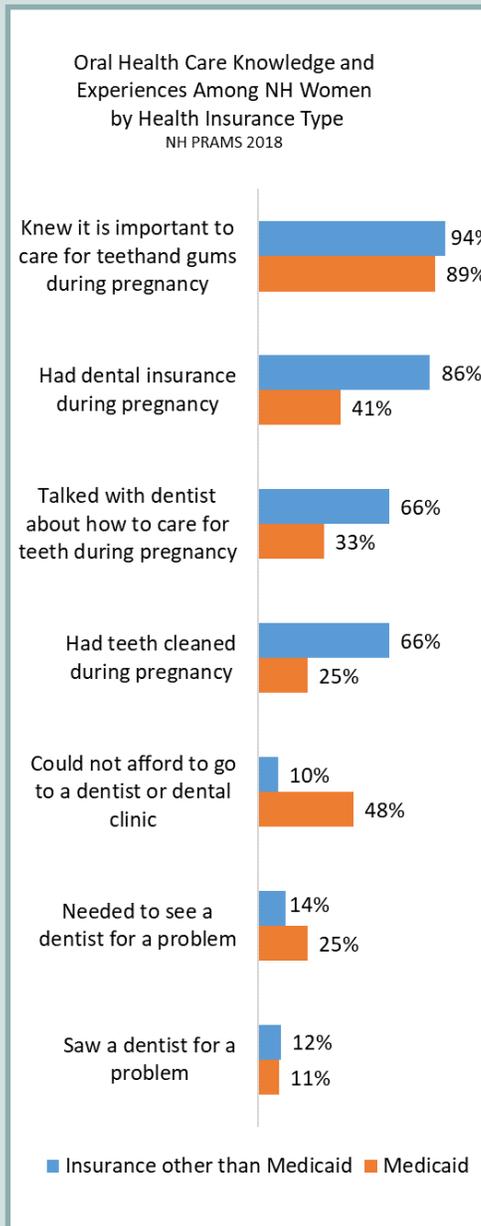
A pregnant woman's oral health has far-reaching impacts and can affect the oral health of her infant. Mothers with poor oral health can unintentionally pass cavity-forming bacteria to their infants, increasing the child's risk for early tooth decay.

**Protecting a mother's teeth and gums during pregnancy helps protect the teeth and overall health of her children.**

### Disparities in Accessing Oral Health Care During Pregnancy

New Hampshire PRAMS 2018 data show that regardless of insurance coverage, the large majority of women (89-94%) know the importance of caring for their teeth and gums during pregnancy.

Women who were enrolled in Medicaid during pregnancy accessed important preventative and other oral care at significantly lower percentages than those women covered by health insurance other than Medicaid.



## According to 2018 NH PRAMS Data:

Regardless of insurance type the large majority of women (89-94%) knew it was important to care for their teeth and gums during pregnancy.

While 86% of women with health insurance other than Medicaid had dental insurance, fewer than half (41%) of those enrolled in Medicaid had insurance to cover dental care during pregnancy.

66% of women enrolled in health insurance other than Medicaid had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy, while 25% of those enrolled in Medicaid had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy.

48% of women enrolled in Medicaid could not afford to go to a dentist or dental clinic during pregnancy.

25% of women enrolled in Medicaid needed to see a dentist for a problem during pregnancy and 11% saw a dentist.

14% of those with health insurance other than Medicaid needed to see a dentist during pregnancy and 12% saw one.

**14% of women enrolled in Medicaid needed to see a dentist for a problem during pregnancy but did not have their problem taken care of.**

**2% of women enrolled in insurance other than Medicaid needed to see a dentist for a problem and did not have their problem taken care of.**